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Does The CIA Need A Military Chief?

President Kennedy will receive recommendations within a few days from a task force of investigators looking into the failures of the Central Intelligence Agency. It appears that CIA director Allen Dulles is headed for the chopping block, to be replaced by a military man.

Dulles knows that his organization is operated on the command theory. As the man in charge he must be responsible for all that happens. Whether praise or criticism, it must be placed upon his shoulders alone. Whether he is truly to blame for the failures cannot be known by the populace, but Congress and other government officials are urging that a new director be a military man. This has been the trend of the past, for of the four men who preceded Dulles, all were militarists. First was Rear Adm. Souers, who was succeeded the same year by General Vandenberg. He in turn was replaced by Rear Adm. Hillenkoetter and he by Gen. W. Bedell Smith.

But it remains a question of some importance whether or not a military man is best equipped for the role as CIA director. There have been many instances in the past when military men who made mistakes, both strategic and tactical, were not only not removed but were left in their original command. Would appointing such an individual as head of our intelligence agency solve our failures under Dulles?